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**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel Claims 1-18 and 20-96. Please amend Claim 19. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

**Claim Listing**

Claims 1-18 (Canceled).

19. (Currently amended) A The drug carrier of Claim 17, comprising:
- a) a double-stranded nucleotide; and
  - b) a polymer component having an aqueous solubility of at least one mg/liter at 25°C covalently bonded to at least one strand of said double stranded nucleotide,  
wherein said polymer component polyacetal is poly(hydroxymethylethylene hydroxymethylformal).

Claims 20-96 (Canceled).